CLAIMS:

1.   A method for storing data items on a data carrier provided with a file system using sectors, the method comprising:

providing (100) a data file representing a data item, the data file being composed of blocks of mutually varying degrees of significance, wherein said blocks are of a length corresponding to a length of a sector of said data carrier,

evaluating (120) available sectors and present data files on said data carrier,

if the available sectors on said data carrier suffice for containing said data file then storing (140) said data file on said data carrier,

if the available sectors on said data carrier do not suffice for containing said data file then removing (130) blocks of present data files from said data carrier based on the significance of the respective blocks and consequently storing (140) at least part of said data file on said data carrier, and

updating the file system to take into account the storing of the blocks of the new data file and the removing of the blocks of present data files.

2.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising if the available sectors on said data carrier do not suffice for containing said data file then removing (130) blocks of present data files from said data carrier based on the significance of the respective blocks and discarding at least one of said data file blocks based on the significance of said blocks and consequently storing (140) the remaining blocks of said data file on said data carrier.

3.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the data file is provided (100) by converting the data item into the data file by a scalable compression method.

4.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of composing an auxiliary memory file with data file identification information, including significance information, for respective data files stored on said data carrier.

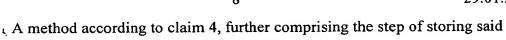5. A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of storing said auxiliary memory file on said data carrier.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of evaluating available sectors and present data files on said data carrier includes reading (110) said auxiliary memory file.

7. A method according to claim 4, further including the step of updating (150) said auxiliary memory file after alterations of the content of said data carrier.

8. A method according to claim 4, wherein said auxiliary memory file is stored on the data carrier as a hidden file.

9. A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of converting a given data item into a data file composed of successive blocks of decreasing significance, wherein said blocks are of a length corresponding to a length of a sector of said data carrier

10. A method according to claim 9, comprising removing (130) blocks of present data files from said data carrier by truncation of selected data files present on said data carrier.

11. Device for storing data items on a data carrier provided with a file system using sectors, the encoder comprising:

input means (20) for providing a data file representing a data item, the data file being composed of blocks of mutually varying degrees of significance, wherein said blocks are of a length corresponding to a length of a sector of said data carrier,

means (40) for evaluating available sectors and present data files on said data carrier,

means (30) for storing said data file on said data carrier if the available sectors on said data carrier suffice for containing said data file,

means (30) for removing blocks of present data files from said data carrier based on the significance of the respective blocks and consequently storing at least part of said data file on said data carrier if the available sectors on said data carrier do not suffice for containing said data file, and

means (40) for updating the file system to take into account the storing of the blocks of the new data file and the removing of the blocks of present data files.

12.   Computer program product provided with program code sections to perform the steps of the method according to claim 1, when run on a computer system.

13.   Data carrier (50) provided with a file system using sectors, the data carrier comprising data files composed of blocks of mutually varying degrees of significance, wherein said blocks are of a length corresponding to a length of a sector of said data carrier.

14.   Data carrier (50) according to claim 13, further comprising an auxiliary memory file with data file identification information, including significance information, for respective data files stored on said data carrier.